

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1017 without my signature.

This measure would require law enforcement agencies to annually report to the Department of Justice (DOJ) information pertaining to the total number of rape kits received and tested during the preceding calendar year, the total number of untested kits in its possession as of January 1 of the reporting year, and the number of rape kits that law enforcement has requested to be tested that remain untested.

I strongly support efforts to ensure that rape kits are analyzed and processed in a timely manner in order to identify and prosecute sex offenders. However, requiring law enforcement agencies to provide backlog statistics to the DOJ would place significant cost burdens on these agencies and would divert scarce resources away from processing these kits. In addition, this measure does not require the DOJ to do anything with the reports received. Assuming that the DOJ would have to administer, collect, and manage these records, this could impose additional cost pressures on the DOJ.

Since this measure would create additional state costs that cannot be accommodated in a time of fiscal crisis, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger